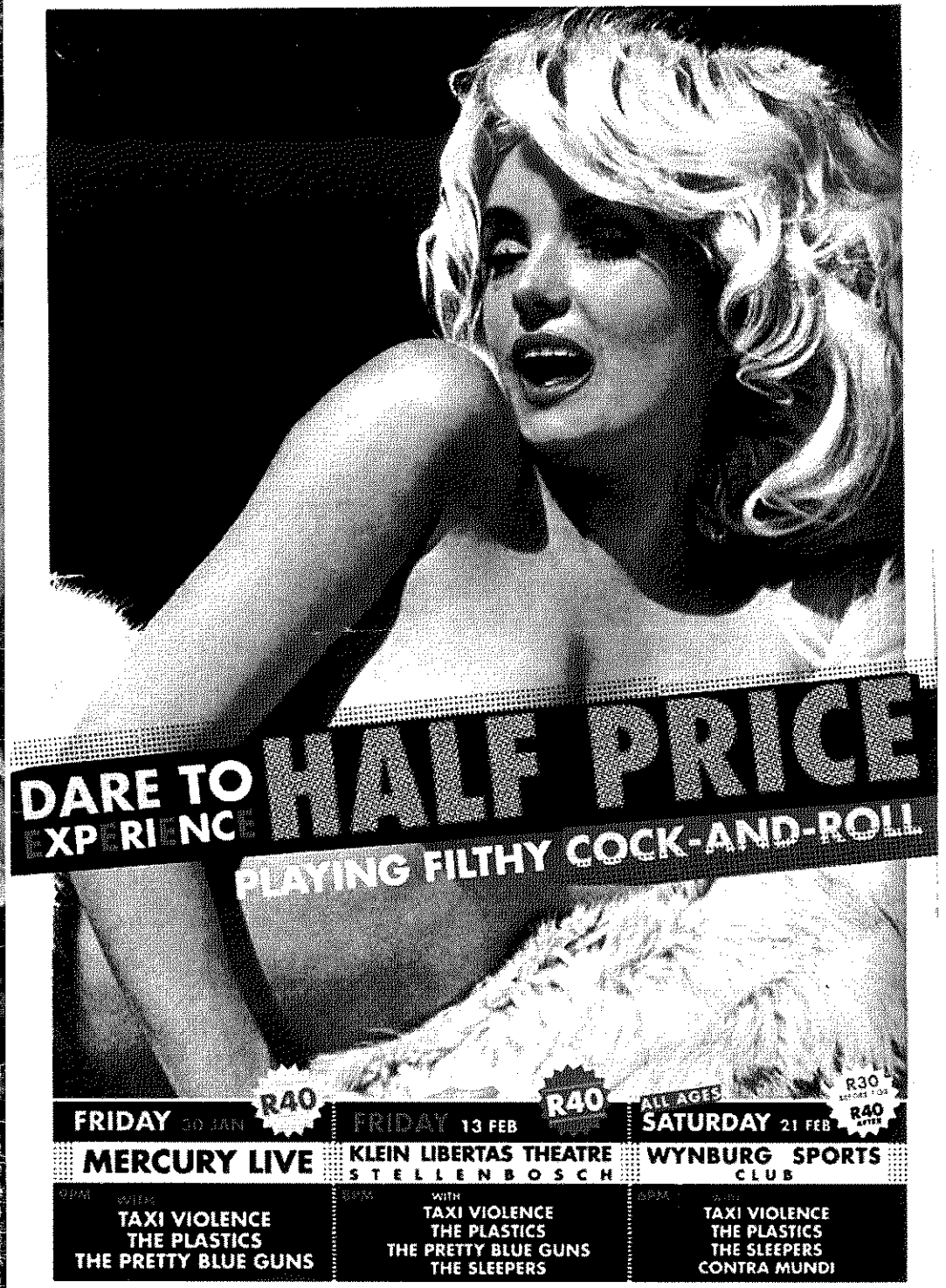
THE MONOTONY OF MONOGOMY
THE ALL NEW HALFPRICE
ALBUM OUT MAY 2009


DARE TO
EXPERIENCE
HALF PRICE
PLAYING FILTHY COCK-AND-ROLL
FRIDAY 30 JAN
R40
FRIDAY 13 FEB
R40
ALL AGES
SATURDAY 21 FEB
R30
R40 AFTER
MERCURY LIVE
KLEIN LIBERTAS THEATRE
STELLENBOSCH
WYNBURG SPORTS
CLUB
WITH
TAXI VIOLENCE
THE PLASTICS
THE PRETTY BLUE GUNS
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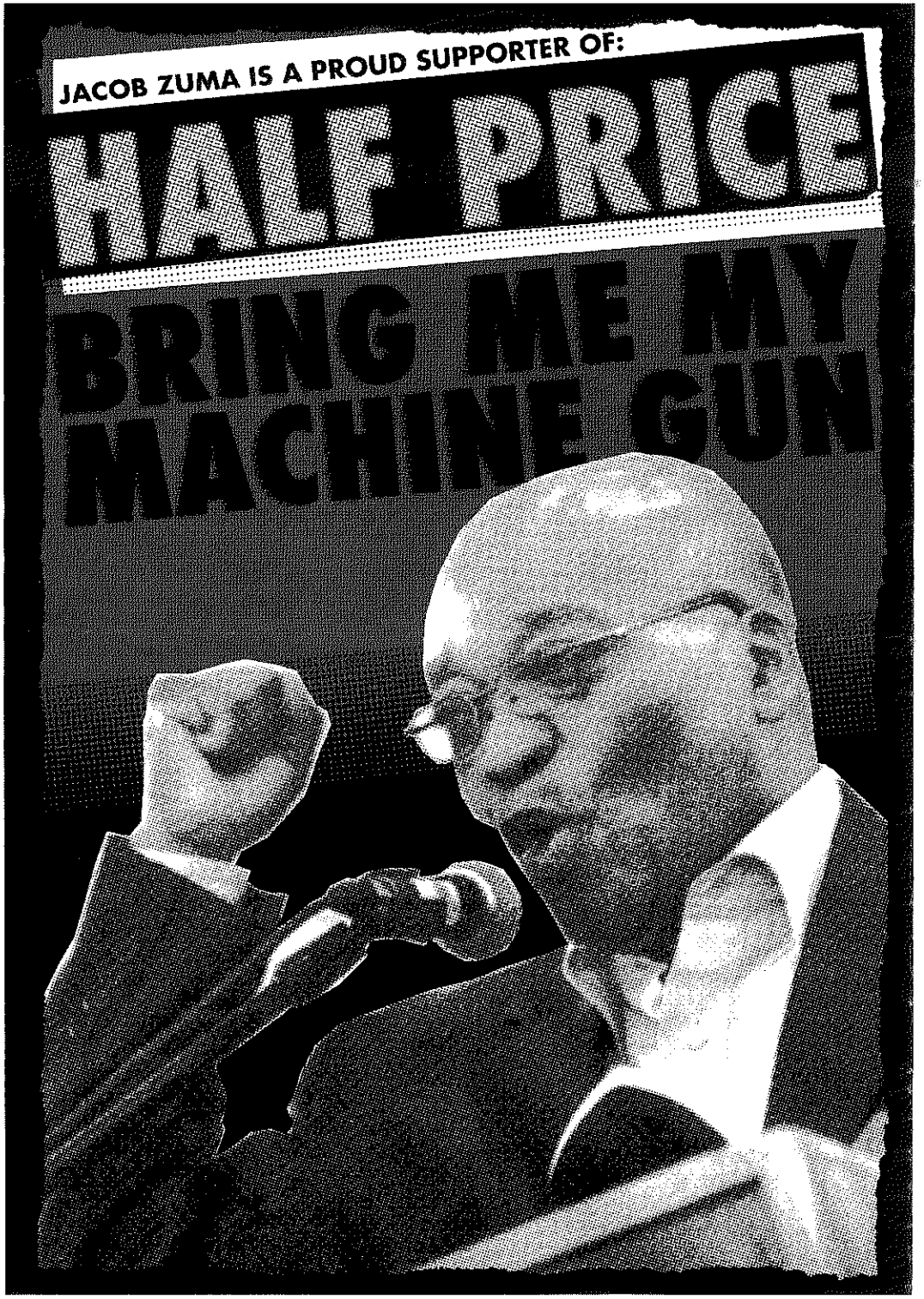

Seven years and soon-to-be three albums later and four-piece drunk punk stalwarts Half Price are still alive and kicking, even if it's not on the local front. Lindi Brownell talks to Pete, Markus and Kyle about latest offering The Monotony of Monogamy, German mania and memorable moments.

The Monotony of Monogamy is a fairly interesting title for an album. What was the thought behind this?

Pete: Well, literally monotony is boredom and monogamy refers to a single-person relationship. I was in a long-term relationship at the time and monogamy kind of referred to my white picket fence lifestyle. But the title is really a metaphor about life. Life is fucking boring. Working full time, it's monotonous and frustrating.

How has the recording process been so far?

Markus: We just came back from Berlin and it was fucking cool. We had an offer from a guy over there who really liked our stuff, so he offered us the opportunity to record with him. We've actually finished recording, but we're just waiting for it to get mixed and mastered.

Fans will probably want to know why it's taken over 2 years to record new material? Fresh inspiration?

Pete: We actually started the working on the new CD about a week after we recorded Banned. We recorded about nine or 10 demos and sent them to the guy in Germany, who commented on them and showed us how we could improve the demos overall. By going through this process, the songs just became better and better.
Kyle: It's been a long time, but we really didn't want to rush it. We weren't really happy with the way Banned came out, so this time we wanted to concentrate on pre-production. And some of the songs are quite different to what we usually do, so we just wanted to explore our options more carefully.

Pete: We learnt a lot from recording Banned. We recorded the songs too slowly and there wasn't enough passion in the singing. So, we tried to correct all those things this time around. It just took a long time to do.
What differentiates Taking Life Seriously and Banned from the upcoming album?

Markus: I think, in short, it's the got the structure of Banned and the energy and passion of 'taking life seriously'.

One look through a Half Price press release and it's clear that Germany seems to be on top of your list in many aspects; including opening up for bands, working with German producers as well as recording parts of the third album in German studios. What's the connection here?

Pete: We've toured Germany twice over the past five years, as the punk rock scene is just much bigger there. Having a German recording gets us much better exposure over there too.

Markus: The guys over there have been recording punk and metal since the late 70s, so you can hear the difference between our local recordings and the new album.

You're in the process of launching the website Drunk Punk Rock 'n Roll. What can one expect from this?

Markus: Adam, our press manager, and myself couldn't get the music that we liked in this country and found it hard to find music from the South African bands that we liked. So, we decided to put together a mail-order/song downloading site. We've approached bands in Germany and asked them if they want to distribute their stuff over here, as well as local bands too. It's also much easier than old-fashioned promotion and distribution.

Pete: People don't buy CDs anymore. I'm in a band and I don't even buy CDs. Downloading is just much more viable.
What makes Half Price different from other punk-by-definition-type local bands?
Pete: Are there any local punk rock bands?? Not as many as there used to be. Just those angry high school kids with the guitars that their moms bought for them...!

Markus: We're probably more outrageous. The punk scene can take itself too seriously sometimes. We just do it for the fun of it!

Pete: While we still have a big punk rock and ska element, but I'd say we're moving to a more rock 'n roll sound.

That's interesting: Combining ska and rock 'n roll?

Pete: It works nicely actually! It has a kind of bluesy sound in the some of the songs. Like in Camps Bay Sluts, we've included a harmonica, which is very different for us.

Since your inception seven years ago, you have opened up for a long list of both local and international acts. Who have you enjoyed opening for the most?

Markus: Definitely the Spermbirds

Pete & Kyle: The Mad Caddies was the best show.

Markus: I stick by Spermbirds!

Most memorable performance?

Markus: Well, we started a riot at a New Years festival in Namibia about two years ago. There were probably about 3, 000 people there. There was a huge gap between the stage and the crowd and we could hardly see the audience because of all the lights, so Pete grabbed the mike and shouted 'Tear down this fence and come closer to the stage!'

Pete: It was more like 'Tear down this fucking barricade!'

Markus: Anyway, the people did tear down the fence and everyone was stage diving and cameras were flying left, right and centre. Then the stage crew came out and tear-gassed the audience. Obviously, we had to stop performing early, which also meant that none of the other bands could play after us.

Kyle: They were pissed off. One of the bands had just driven 2, 200kms all the way from Joburg and they couldn't even play. Let's just say, they weren't very happy with Pete.

Homo Pete, DFG, Mork the Ork and The Machine. What's the story behind these nicknames?

Pete: Mork's guitar style is as agressive as an ork is ugly. Kyle plays like a machine, so that was fitting. You know what the DFG stands for? The Dirty Fucking German!

Markus: Homo Pete...well it's because he's just so homosexual!
I've had the displeasure of seeing you strip down to your birthday suits at shows.
Markus: Let's just say, if the time is right and we have a big crowd...we like to put on a show!
Where are the plans for next year?

Markus: Well, we're launching the new album in March, so we will definitely do a couple of tours here and hopefully in Europe too.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Friday 30th Jan
Mercury Live
HalfPrice, Taxi Violence, The Plastics,
The Pretty Blue Guns
R40
9pm

Friday 13th Feb
Klein Libertas Theater, Stellenbosch
HalfPrice, Taxi Violence, The Plastics,
The Pretty Blue Guns, The Sleepers
R40
8pm

Saturday 21st Feb
Wynberg Sports Club
HalfPrice, Taxi Violence, The Plastics,
The Sleepers, ContraMundi
R30 before 7:30pm, R40 thereafter
6pm
All Ages

Saturday 7th March 09
Venue: Wynberg Sports Club
HalfPrice, RED FIVE POINT STAR, Hog Hoggidy Hog,
7th Son + one opening band TBC
Entry: R40
Starting time: 6pm
Type: All Ages

DRUNKPUNK
PUNK
SKA
HARDCORE

THE GALLOWS

broken 15

for more info check out:
www.drunkpunk.co.za
www.myspace.com/halfpricepunk